

March 5, 1974

PRESIDENT: Are you all through discussing Senator Frank Lewis' amendment? Senator Lewis, do you care to close? Senator Lewis is now closing on his amendment to LB984 on General File.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Now, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature. I think that we all understand the real purpose of the amendment. And again I say to you, it has no meaning, it has no value. You're not going to be able to control some things and some of you people are still going to be facing some of those problems. And I say, for instance, the 8% that's paid in this state for transportation. Now, those buses are still going to run and they've got to have gas and whatever we want to do with it, we're still going to have to put back gas in those buses. We're still going to have to buy electricity. We're still going to have to do all of those things. We're also going to have to do all of those things you tell the schools to do and to impose an artificial limitation for some political reason does not make sense to me. Now, I appreciate the promotion that Senator Carpenter gave me as an official spokesman-for a poor Okie from the classroom of two years ago, that moved pretty quick and I appreciate that. In fact, Senator Carpenter and I get along very well now. He used to call me kid and teacher and now he calls me Lewis so I'm moving. This limit's unnecessary. True, it's been proposed by the Governor. I opposed the Governor's bill last time the same way I'm opposing this one. Now, that's consistent but I'm telling you that we have finally worked, that some people have seen the light to bring a reasonable formula into LB772 or LB958 that Senator Duis had. Now the clutch question is, do we really want a fair method of distribution or do we want to clutter the whole issue with the limit which is a direct, a direct strike to your school districts, to your local officials. And if I were a local official, if I were a local school board member and my Legislature, and in essence said to me, my legislator said you're not smart enough to handle your money, you're not smart enough to control your finances, I'm the smart guy on school finances, I'm the smart guy on schools. The only thing is don't let him give you a test on it. I think the limit's unnecessary. I think we can move along very nicely if we strike those sections from this bill and move it across and then let's start addressing ourselves to the reasonable questions involving state aid. That's method of distribution, dollar figures and let's move the whole thing across once and for all. This is about the seventeenth chapter in this tragedy and it's about time to bring it to a conclusion one way or another.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly, he was closing on his amendment. All right, do you have a question regarding routine here? Question is do you want to adopt the Lewis amendment. If you do, vote aye. If not, vote no. You are voting on the adoption of Senator Frank Lewis' amendment to LB984 on General File. You are voting on Senator Frank Lewis' motion to LB984 on General File. Have you all voted? Once again, have you all voted? Clerk will record.

CLERK: 13 ayes, 22 nays, remainder not voting.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Are there other amendments now to the bill?

CLERK: None.